

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 has been modified to recite a substantially consistent wall thickness. This clearly distinguishes over the disclosure of Davancens ('334), wherein the "closed end" is much "thicker" than the rest of wall, so that it may be joined to a holder cord.

Regarding claims 4 and 9, the Examiner has misinterpreted the cited prior art, and these claims should simply be allowed. The Examiner contends that Davancens discloses "an outer body or overlay (30) when an internal core or liner (38)." However, that is not what Applicant is claiming. Rather, Applicant is claiming that the sleeve of pliable material is composed of a coextensive liner and overlay. In the case of the '334 patent, "38" is simply a cavitation into the end fastener.

Replacement drawing sheets for Figures 1 through 5 are being submitted herewith.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicant believes all claims are in condition for allowance. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

John G. Posa

Reg. No. 37,424

Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,

Anderson & Citkowski, PC

PO Box 7021

Troy, MI 48007-7021

(734) 913-9300 FAX (734) 913-6007

Email: jposa@patlaw.com

Dated: May 9, 2005